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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1951



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LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the public health services of the Rural District Council for the year 1951.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. SHARPE, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

W. SUTTON, M.S.I.A.

County Nursing Staff operating in district :

MISS K. E. MUNFORD, Leyburn.

MISS M. J. FAIRBURN, Redmire.

MRS. J. G. MCFARLANE, East Witton.

MRS. D. SMITH, Crakehall.

Ambulance Service.

The facilities provided by the County Council consist of an ambulance station at Richmond and Hospital Car Service vehicles which are located at Leyburn and Middleham.

Laboratory Service.

Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	63,613
Population (Estimated Mid-year 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,465
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,805
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£29,378
Product of Id. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£116

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS :					
Legitimate	44	65	109	17.2	15.5
Illegitimate	0	2	2		
STILL BIRTHS :					
Legitimate	0	2	2	0.46	0.36
Illegitimate	1	0	1		
DEATHS :					
All causes	45	33	78	12.1	12.5
Maternal causes ..	—	0	0	0.00*	0.79*
Infants under 1 year of age					
Legitimate	1	0	1	9.01†	29.6†
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years ..	1	0	1	9.01†	1.4†

* Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

† Rates per 1,000 live births.

POPULATION TREND.

	1951	1950	1949	1948
Mid year population ..	6465	6429	6390	6413
Birth rate	17.2	17.3	17.7	16.5
Death rate	12.1	10.3	11.3	10.6

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1,000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
ALL CAUSES	45	33	78	12.1	13.1
Tuberculosis	4	1	5	0.77	0.31
Syphilitic disease	0	1	1	0.15	—
Measles	1	0	1	0.15	14.07
Cancer	5	2	7	1.08	—
Cardio Vascular	23	22	45	6.96	—
Influenza	2	3	5	0.77	0.38
Other Respiratory Diseases (excluding pneumonia) ..	3	0	3	0.46	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1	0.15	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6	0.93	—
Accidents other than motor vehicle	2	0	2	0.31	—
Suicide	1	1	2	0.31	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Notified	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1,000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0	0	0	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection ..	0	0	0	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1	3	4	0.62	1.11
Whooping Cough	3	11	14	2.17	3.87
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0.00	0.02
Erysipelas	1	0	1	0.15	0.14
Smallpox	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Measles	20	15	35	5.41	14.07
Pneumonia	11	5	16	2.47	0.99
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0	0	0	0.00	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0	0	0	0.00	0.02
Food Poisoning	1	0	1	0.15	0.13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0.00†	—

† Rate per 1,000 Live Births.

From the above table it will be noted that the only infectious disease unduly prevalent during the year was measles and the incidence of this disease was very much below the national rate.

It is pleasing to report once again the complete absence of diphtheria in the district, the only untoward effect of which is to engender in the community a feeling of security against the disease with increasing difficulty in persuading parents to avail themselves of the facilities provided by the Local Health Authority for immunisation against the disease. It cannot be too strongly stressed that the danger of a recurrence of the disease with its attendant tragedies is ever present, and that in order to keep it at bay, it is essential to maintain a high immunisation rate amongst the child population.

Another disturbing feature from the preventive medicine point of view has been the serious decline over the past few years of the number of infants in the district who are being vaccinated against Smallpox. We have had a few examples recently of how easily this disease can be imported from endemic zones and establish a foothold in this country, and it is only by the prompt action of the health authorities that major disasters have been avoided. With the ever increasing speed of international communications it is more essential than ever to protect all children against this scourge.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0—4	-	1	-	-
5—15	2	1	-	-
15— $\frac{1}{1}$	7	-	4	1
Total	9	2	4	1

There were 25 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st December, 1951, which gives a rate of 4.33 cases of Tuberculosis per thousand population.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It has not been necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Water Supplies.

There has been very little change during the year in the district's water supplies but work has progressed steadily on the new distribution scheme from Sowden Beck. It is hoped that this scheme will be completed during 1952 when a pure and adequate supply of water will be provided for the major part of the Rural District, replacing numerous small supplies which are a constant menace to the Public Health of the area. The Council are to be congratulated on their vision and industry in pressing on with this scheme.

There remains, however, further work to be done before it can be finally reported that the entire district is satisfactorily watered from the Public Health angle. The villages of Bellerby, Carlton and Redmire are still supplied with water which is liable to intermittent bacterial contamination, and therefore cannot be considered safe. It has been necessary to advise boiling of all water for human consumption at Bellerby for a considerable time and an alternative supply here is an imperative need. A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and was the subject of a Public Enquiry on 18th May, 1950, but so far approval to carry out the scheme has not been received. The provision of this scheme should be treated with more urgency by all concerned.

At Carlton the supply is a private undertaking run by the Parish Council and could be improved considerably by carrying out certain works at the source which the undertakers are either unable or unwilling to do.

Sewage.

The progressive attitude of the Council towards the sewage disposal in their district is a matter for high commendation and I doubt if there is any similar rural authority in the country with a corresponding achievement. Sewage disposal works are now in operation at Leyburn, Middleham, East Witton, Castle Bolton, Swinithwaite, Hunton, Patrick Brompton, Newton-le-Willows, and West Witton. The good record of the Council in this regard should, however, not give rise to complacency, since there are still a few communities under their authority where the advantage of water borne sewage is not available.

I would suggest that a system of priorities be established to deal with the following villages where at times there is considerable nuisance caused by the lack of proper sewerage :— Carlton, Thornton Steward, Redmire, Bellerby and Hauxwell.

Refuse Disposal.

There is nothing to add to previous reports on this subject. The collection of refuse in the area is satisfactory, but the need for adequate tipping facilities becomes increasingly urgent. I again implore the Council to make adequate provision for the controlled tipping of refuse.

Camp Sites.

The displaced persons camp at East Witton has now been closed and there are no other camps in the area.

Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district, but there are twelve registered dealers as follows :—

Leyburn	...	...	7
Middleham	...	...	2
Bellerby	...	...	1
Harmby	...	...	1
Hunton	...	...	1

Meat and Food Inspections.

Centralised slaughter of animals is still carried out at Leyburn. There has been no improvement in the conditions at the abattoir which remain deplorable. Everything has been done to try to persuade the Ministry of Food, whose responsibility it is to improve or replace the existing slaughter house, but it would appear that there is very little hope of any action being taken in the near future.

Housing.

The housing position again shows improvement. There are, however, still many families inhabiting unfit houses or living in overcrowded conditions who are awaiting re-housing. 159 houses have been completed by the Council since the war, distributed as follows :—

Patrick Brompton	...	2
Newton-le-Willows ...	...	2
East Witton	... ..	4
Constable Burton	...	6
Finghall	... ..	8
Leyburn	... ..	64
Middleham	... ..	20
Redmire	... ..	6
Spennithorne	... ..	14
Harmby	... ..	6
West Witton	... ..	6
Bellerby	... ..	9
Hunton	... ..	4
Arrathorne	... ..	4
Thornton Steward	...	4

Thirty-three houses have been completed by private enterprise.

The tables appended show the progress during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WM. SHARPE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Thornborough Hall,
LEYBURN,
September, 1952.

APPENDIX.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A total of 1108 Inspections were made during the year, and analysis of these is given below :—

	In- spections	Informal Notices	Not complied with	Statutory Notices	Not complied with
Council's Works	329	—	—	—	—
Housing	458	3	—	1	—
Slaughterhouse	274	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds	—	—	—	—	—
Public Health Acts	81	—	—	—	—
Total	1142	3	—	1	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	Powered, Non- powered	Number on Register	In- spections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority ..	20	20	8	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.. ..	45	45	4	—	—
Total	65	65	12	—	—

Particulars	Powered	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found	Remedied	Notified by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes*	—	—	—	—	—

* (In only four cases are there both sexes employed and sanitary conveniences are separate and adequate).

Trades.

Builders	...	...	...	10
Plumbers	...	...	...	8
Joiners	...	...	...	11
Electricians	...	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	...	3
Motor Repair Shops	...	...	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	7
Milk Receiving Depots	...	...	...	2
Cheese Factory	...	...	...	1
Sawmills	...	...	...	1
Sand and Gravel	...	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	...	1
Quarries	...	...	...	7
Gas Co.	...	...	...	1
				—
				65
				—

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The tables below give details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the respective parishes :—

By Private Enterprise.

Parish				Completed	Under Construction at end of year
Leyburn	...	...	...	16	1
West Witton	...	...	...	1	-
Preston-under-Scar	...	...	...	1	-
Coverham	...	...	...	6	-
Thornton Steward	...	...	...	1	-
Finghall	...	...	...	1	-
Hunton	...	...	...	1	-
Patrick Brompton	...	...	...	1	-
Hornby	...	...	...	3	-
Middleham	...	...	...	1	1
Harmby	...	...	...	1	-
Total				33	2

By Leyburn Rural District Council.

Parish	Completed	Under Construction at end of year
Patrick Brompton	2	-
Newton-le-Willows	2	-
West Witton	6	2
Leyburn	64	-
Redmire	6	-
Middleham	20	4
East Witton	4	-
Harmby	6	-
Spennithorne	14	-
Finghall	8	-
Constable Burton	6	4
Preston	-	3
Bellerby	9	1
Hunton	4	10
Arrathorne	4	-
Thornton Steward	4	-
Total	159	24

Works of adaptation have been carried out resulting in the provision of 13 flats and 5 new dwellings by private enterprise.

Building Licences.

The following table gives details of work licensed during the year 1951 :—

	No.	Values
New dwellings	3	£5,431
Repairs and adaptations ...	19	£7,296
Total	22	£12,727

Plans.

40 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table :—

Parish	New Build-ings	Alterations to dwellings	Garages and sheds	Cowsheds and Dairies	Other Build-ings	Total
Middleham ..	1	4	1	—	—	6
Bellerby ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Leyburn ..	2	4	7	2	2	17
Spennithorne ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Newton-le-Willows ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Constable Burton ..	—	—	—	2	—	2
West Witton ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
East Witton ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Horsehouse ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Carlton ..	—	—	2	—	—	2
Hunton ..	1	—	—	1	—	2
Coverham ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Melmerby ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Castle Bolton ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Finghall ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Thornton Steward ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ..	4	11	15	6	4	40

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Smpl No.	Date of Sampling	Address	Summary of Analyst's Report.
171	29/1/51	Redmire—Res.	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
173	30/1/51	Carlton Town	Slight contamination with coliform organisms.
174	30/1/51	West Scafton	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
175	30/1/51	West Scafton	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
176	30/1/51	West Scafton	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
177	6/2/51	Leyburn—Cranehow sup'ly	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
179	31/7/51	Swinithwaite—tap in house	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
180	31/7/51	Swinithwaite—Inlet to Res.	Some contamination with Coliform organisms of which some are faecal.
181	7/8/51	Bellerby spring	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
182	14/8/51	Bellerby stand pipe	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
183	27/8/51	Bellerby—tap in house	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
184	30/10/51	Leyburn—below reservoir	Some contamination with Coliform organisms which are faecal.
185	27/11/51	Dantzic Farm. Well supply	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Chemical Analysis of Water.

Smpl No.	Date of Sampling	Address	Summary of Analyst's Report.
172	30/1/51	West Scafton	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
178	9/2/51	Leyburn—Whipperdale	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

	Graded Animals	Casualty Animals
Beasts ..	456	—
Cows	—	178
Calves ..	—	88
Sheep	1222	131
Pigs	—	48

Total weight of meat and offal condemned, 15 tons, 4 cwt. 1 qr.
Total weight affected with tuberculosis, 5 tons, 7 cwt. 1 qr.

Details of Carcases Inspected and condemned.

	Cattle (ex cluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	456	178	88	1222	48
Number inspected	456	178	88	1222	48
All diseases except tuberculosis—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	32	12	32	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	141	34	7	39	7
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	30.9%	37%	21.5%	5.8%	20%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	23	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	3	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	7.8%	14.6%	2%	—	—

Food Inspections.

During the year the following food stuffs were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Article	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Ham (cooked) ..	3 tins.	40 lbs.
Soup	6 tins	6 lbs.

